

# Theatre in the Grove

Presents

## *Really Rosie*

Book and Lyrics by Maurice Sendak  
(author of *Where the Wild Things Are*)  
Music by Carole King

Directed by Butch Vandehey  
(Director of TITG's *Schoolhouse Rock*, *Wind in the Willows* and *The Hobbit*)

October 21 - 23 & 28 - 30 for general public (2 weekends)  
**October 24-28 daytimes for school groups**

The Rosie character is based on a real-life 10 year-old girl whom Sendak studied in 1948. (He won a Caldecott medal for this work in 1964.) The plot: It's a hot summer day in July when Rosie and the children of the neighborhood are bored, looking for something to do outside. Rosie imagines herself an incredibly talented star and decides to stage a musical movie about her life "to find the real me." Her mother, however, wants her to watch her little sister, Chicken Soup, who hides herself in a box.

The story is set in a musical setting. Each child imagines his or her dreams very far away from their normal ordinary lives. Rosie and all the Nutshell Kids of the neighborhood succeed in defeating summer boredom by entertaining themselves through imagination and dramatic play.

**Dates for Schools:** October 24 through 28, 2005

**Place:** Theatre in the Grove  
2028 Pacific Avenue (just across from Pacific University)  
Forest Grove, OR 97116

**Show Times:** 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

**Prices:** \$3 per student/teacher/adult-helper for weekday shows

**For School Group Reservations: Contact Carla at**  
**[reallyrosie@theatreinthegrove.org](mailto:reallyrosie@theatreinthegrove.org)**

Reservations are available commencing your reception of this letter.

Prepare the children for the Maurice Sendak play. Read to them the following stories by Maurice Sendak and study the pictures:

*The Nutshell Library*: NY: Harper Collins, 1962. Each book is a musical number in the play:

1. *Alligators All Around: An Alphabet*. Have children write a different alphabet poem using nouns and verbs for each letter of the alphabet.
2. *One Was Johnny: A Counting Book*. Make up a story about 10 things that happen to you in sequence forwards and backwards.
3. *Pierre: A Cautionary Tale in five chapters and a prologue*. Tell another story about what happens to someone when he/she doesn't care.
4. *Chicken Soup with Rice: A Book of Months*. Make up a poem or song about what happens to your favorite food each month of the year.

---

*Really Rosie* was conceived in 1975 when Maurice Sendak combined two of his books, *The Sign on Rosie's Door* (1960) and *The Nutshell Library* (1962) and invited Carole King to put his lyrics to music for his animated film, which aired on CBS in 1975.

Forest Grove City Library has three (3) copies of the video *Really Rosie* (1993, VHS) and information on Carole King. Teachers in the classroom can check both out.

After seeing the theatrical production, **watch the video and compare it with the play**.  
Source: *Really Rosie*. Weston, CT: Children Circle, Weston Wood's Studios, 1993.

- What feelings do you get from animated characters?
- How do those feeling change when you watch a similar story with live actors?

**Discuss with the children the following questions:**

- Do you have a baby-sitter or do you take care of your sister and/or brother?
- What ideas can they share about finding things to do with younger siblings, if there is no adult present?

Children can write about their ideas. Peer Tutors or Buddies can work together in "trying out" some of the ideas.

## Movie or Theatre Vocabulary that Rosie Uses:

*Director:* A person who helps actors play their characters.

*Producer:* A person who hires everyone to make a movie or play.

*Star:* A famous or popular actor who shines brightly.

*Leading Man or Woman:* The biggest acting parts in a movie or play.

*Bit Player:* The smallest acting part in a movie or play.

*Cast:* (noun) All the actors in a movie or play;

(verb) To decide which actors will play which part

*Screen test:* A test in front of a movie screen to see if an actor would be good for a part

*Talent Scout:* A person who looks for talented actors to be in movies

*Company:* Everyone involved in making a movie or play

*Rehearse:* Practice parts for a movie or play

*“Roll’ em! Lights! Camera! Action!”* What a director calls out to tell everybody to turn on the lights, start the camera film rolling, and cue the actors to start acting.

*Number:* Another word for a song and dance finale the grand ending or finish to a show

*Extravaganza:* spectacular event coming attraction advertising for the next movie

## COUNSELOR QUESTIONS for REALLY ROSIE:

After the show feelings will come up. This will be a good time for the counselor to come in and address some of these issues. The school counselor can direct the following questions upon visiting in the classroom.

### Coping with Reality...

*Sendak explores how children cope with boredom, their personal inadequacies and the dark realities of their lives by fantasizing alternative worlds. Discuss these realities:*

1. What makes you feel lonely, lost and sad? What can you do about it?
2. How do you feel when family members scream and yell? What can you do about it?
3. How do you “escape” from having to baby-sit your siblings?
4. How do you escape from people when they bully you?
5. What can you say when your friends say mean things about you?

### The Fantasy of Dramatic Play...

1. Why do you think Chicken Soup stays in the box most of the play?
2. Do your parents have special names or nicknames for you? Are you happy with them? What would you change or keep?
3. What is a friend? How can you keep your friends playing with you? What would you want your friends to know about you?

## Eating Nourishing Food and Being Eaten Up....

Sendak writes "the business of eating is such an immensely important part of life for a child." The Grimm's' tales are full of things being eaten and then disgorged.

1. What foods nourish you when you are sick or blue? Do you like chicken soup?
2. Discuss the moral of the tale of Pierre. Why is it important to care? What emotions "consume" Pierre? Why does the Lion eat Pierre?

## Suggestions for lesson plans for Teachers for Really Rosie

### Before the show:

- Speak with the children about *theatre etiquette*. Attending live theatre is not going to a movie or watching TV. It is reacting to live people who are telling a story.
- Food and beverages are not permitted in the Theatre auditorium.
- Patrons leaving the auditorium during the performance may not return to their seats. They will be retained in the lobby.

Theatre in the Grove thanks The University of Kansas Theatre for Young People, who presented *Really Rosie* in February 2004 for some of the following ideas.

Draw your favorite scene from *Really Rosie*.



Then answer these sentence starters:

I wish my mother would \_\_\_\_\_.

If I were Rosie \_\_\_\_\_.

My favorite part was when \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_